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Appl. No. 10/ 613,371  
Amdt. Dated September 10, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2005

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A magnetic recording medium having a magnetic layer with a thickness 50 nm or less formed over a surface of an elongated nonmagnetic support by a vacuum thin film forming technique,

wherein an angle  $\theta$  which is a growth direction of magnetic particles in a longitudinal cross-section of said magnetic layer with respect to a line normal to said nonmagnetic support, satisfies the following relation:

$$\theta_i - \theta_f \leq 25^\circ$$

where  $\theta_i$  is an angle of initial growth for said magnetic layer, and  $\theta_f$  is an angle of final growth for said magnetic layer, and

and further wherein a deposition range is restricted such that a maximum incidence angle  $\alpha_i$  and minimum incidence angle  $\alpha_f$  satisfies the relationship:

$$\alpha_i - \alpha_f \leq 25^\circ.$$

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further wherein the magnetic layer is less than the 50 nm in thickness.